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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/001,884	12/31/97	LIU	S RIC-97-036

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
MCI COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
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LM12/0222

EXAMINER

NEGASH, K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2733

6

DATE MAILED: 02/22/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/001,884	Applicant(s) Liu et al.
	Examiner K. Negash	Group Art Unit 2733

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the identifying means; determining means; notification means; as well as the means of claim 12 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11-16 are indefinite because the various means recited in the claims are not clearly pointed out in the drawings. For example to what elements in the drawings do the identifying

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means; determining means; notification means; as well as the means of claim 12 correspond. In short, it is very difficult to correspond the claims to the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3,8-9,11-13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lebby et al.(U.S. Patent No. 5,218,465.

As the claims are best understood, Lebby et al., in the sole figure show an apparatus comprising equipment for terminating a telecommunications span(15,20); identifying means(40); determining means(in 40); and notifying means(in 40); optical cross connect switch(35 and see column 3, lines 60-68); and control means(37). Thus, claims 1-3,8-9, 11, and 15 are rejected.

As to claims 12-13, elements 37 and 40 can be considered as the claimed optical cross connect switch controller.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 4-7,10,14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebby et al.(U.S. Patent No. 5,218,465.

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Lebby et al., disclose the claimed invention except for the technique of determining a previous failed facility type and then determining whether a subsequent failure is restorable using said previous failed facility type. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the claimed technique in Lebby et al., by programming the microprocessor in Lebby et al., to do the claimed functions in order to conduct robust communication. Thus, claims 4-7,10,14, and 16 are rejected.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mestdagh et al.,(U.S. Patent No. 5,299,293) and Netsu(U.S. Patent No. 5,715,074) are cited for their teachings of protection arrangement in optical communications systems.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kinfe-Michael Negash whose telephone number is (703) 305-4932.

K. Negash

February 17, 1999



KINFE-MICHAEL NEGASH
PRIMARY EXAMINER